

16 • CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1954

Senate Aspirant Julius Klein A 'Taft Republican'

As a public service, The Sun-Times presents the life stories of the nine candidates for the Republican nomination for U.S. senator from Illinois. This is the first of a series.

By Walter F. Morse

Julius Klein would like to cap an exciting life with the prestige of being U.S. senator from Illinois.

Klein, an alumnus of the roaring '20s period in Chicago newspaperdom, is a public relations counselor to major business firms and a National Guard officer who saw extensive Pacific service in World War II.

He presents himself to the voters as a "Taft Republican" and his special idols are the late senator from Ohio and General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

Klein pledges to strive for: Tax reduction, "skillful braking of inflation, a steady retraction of government from business, realistic reappraisal of America's foreign commitments, unceasing effort to reach a workable accord with Russia, and vigilant efforts to complete the elimination of subversives from government office and continue our fight against communism."

Wide Friendships

His backers are confident Klein will make a good showing in the field of nine aspirants for the nomination. They point out that he won the nomination for congressman-at-large in 1932 in a field of 12, and was elected a delegate to the 1952 Republican National Convention.



JULIUS KLEIN

tion against strong opposition.

Klein's friendships and acquaintanceships in military, business and political life are extensive. He is informal in speech and manner, uses the telephone far more than he does the mails, and lives all day long at a furious pace.

Somehow he finds time to read widely. He is fluent in both the written and spoken word in German, Dutch, French and Swedish.

Klein was born in Chicago in 1901, descendant of a German family of fur importers that had established itself here 50 years earlier.

Spent Time In Berlin

His boyhood was divided between Chicago and Berlin because his father maintained a home and a banking office in the German capital. Many

the home, a circumstance that inspired Klein to become a correspondent at the age of 15 for the old Illinois Staats-Zeitung, German-language newspaper published in Chicago.

Through his father's close friend, U.S. Ambassador James W. Gerard, Klein got the last firsthand American newspaper story about the Kaiser before America's entry into World War I.

Members of the Klein family departed with Gerard on the last diplomatic train out of Berlin. Klein added a couple of years to his actual 16 and enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Klein covered the Versailles peace conference and then transferred his newspaper activities to Chicago. He followed that up with five years as a film writer and executive in Hollywood.

Active In National Guard

Meanwhile he had become active in National Guard work. His unit, the 33d Infantry Division, was called to active service 10 months before Pearl Harbor.

He was made a lieutenant colonel in 1941, commanded the 23d Quartermaster Truck Regiment in the South Pacific in 1943, and was advanced to colonel in 1944.

He holds the Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star with two clus-

ters and the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf cluster.

Relieved from active duty in 1946, Klein became a special assistant to Robert P. Patterson, then secretary of war, and was named commander of the 623d Quartermaster Group of the Illinois National Guard. He was national commander of the Jewish War Veterans in 1947 and 1948.

From February, 1948, to August, 1951, Klein, with the rank of brigadier general, commanded the guard's 109th Anti-aircraft Artillery Brigade.

Adlai E. Stevenson, then governor, deactivated the unit. Klein declared this was a "political reprisal." Stevenson maintained the unit was no longer needed because most of its men had been called to federal service.

Klein and his wife, the former Helene Holstein, live in an eight-room apartment in the Belmont Hotel. They have no children. They met and were married in 1928, when she was a Viennese musical comedy star touring the United States and he was a Chicago newspaper reporter.

FRIDAY: Joseph T. Meek.

Gen. Klein Cites Wide Experience

Holds Taft Republicanism Was the 'True Liberalism'

This is the sixth in a series of "get acquainted" articles about the 10 GOP candidates for nomination as U.S. senator.

BY VAN ALLEN BRADLEY

ON THE wall behind the desk of Brig. Gen. Julius Klein, public relations counselor, at 110 S. Dearborn is a framed copy of the first verse of the 27th chapter of Proverbs. It ends with these lines:

Let another man praise thee and not thine own mouth;

A stranger and not thine own lips.

This Biblical injunction is one that Klein has successfully urged upon a gold-plated list of clients. Among them are Pan American World Airways, Barium Steel, Schenley Industries and American Linen Supply.

EX-NEWSPAPERMAN Klein practices what he preaches: When he launched his race for the Republican nomination for U.S. senator he hired his own public relations consultant—in the person of an old-time newspaper associate, James L. Doherty.

Wise in the uses of publicity, the general is making a vigorous and aggressive campaign. It includes voluminous mailings of literature, numerous public appearances and a heavy schedule of television time.

Klein is making two principal arguments in talks to Illinois

voters: (1) He is a Taft Republican, and (2) he is best qualified by 20 years' experience in politics and by lifelong contacts with important men to represent Illinois in the Senate.

THE GENERAL'S experience includes a career as a newspaper reporter and foreign correspondent, military service in World War II that brought him the Soldier's Medal for heroism, a stint as a Hollywood film writer, and the development since 1946 of what he believes is the third largest public relations organization in the country.

The balding 52-year-old candidate is a native Chicagoan, one of eight children of Leopold and Regina Klein. His father was a member of the firm of L. F. Klein & Co., fur importers, founded by Julius' grandfather, Wolf Klein, who came to Chicago nearly 100 years ago.

BORN SEPT. 5, 1901, the young Julius spent much of his boyhood as an international commuter between Chicago and Berlin. His father was a leader

of the American colony in Berlin, where he maintained a residence and handled international banking interests.

The home, as the general recalls it, was the mecca of U.S. diplomats, visiting American church people and newspapermen.

His early contacts with newsmen led Klein at 15 to become a foreign correspondent for the Illinois Staats-Zeitung, a German language paper in Chicago.

His formal education was completed in Berlin, where he was graduated from Sophien College.

It was in Berlin also that the young Klein first met his father's friend and intimate, Ambassador James Gerard. Through Gerard's influence he became, in 1918, the first man in Germany to enlist in the American Army after war broke out between the United States and Germany.

AFTER THE WAR, he returned to Chicago, becoming in the '20s a reporter for the Herald & Examiner. Among his notable assignments was the one in 1926 in which, dressed as a vagrant, he went into a prison cell and got a confession from Robert Scott of a slaying for which Scott's brother had been condemned to die.

Klein also covered the visit to this country in 1927 of Queen Marie of Romania.

In 1928, on another assignment, he met a visiting Viennese musical comedy star, Helene Holstein, and wooed and won her.

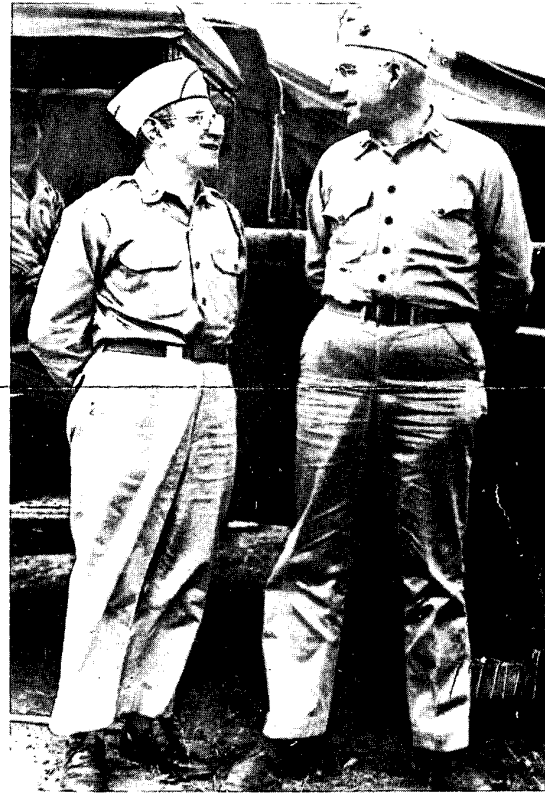
He recalls that the famous "Front Page" reporter, Hilding Johnson, threw an impromptu wedding party for him in the death cell at the Criminal Courts building.

KLEIN JOINED the Illinois National Guard in 1933 and was made a lieutenant colonel in 1941. He entered active service with the 33d division of the guard in 1941.

In the South Pacific and the Philippines in 1943, he commanded the 23d Quartermaster Truck Regiment and was in charge of 10,000 troops. At Noumea, New Caledonia, on Nov. 1, 1943, he braved shrapnel and flying debris to direct rescue operations after a dock explosion. For this he was awarded the soldier's medal.

Among his other decorations are the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf cluster, the French Legion of Honor, and the Philippine Distinguished Service star.

Upon his release from active duty in 1946, he became for a brief time a special assistant to Secretary of War Patterson. In 1947, he was elected president of the Jewish War Veterans.



Julius Klein (left) and Paul H. Douglas when both were serving in the Pacific in World War II. Klein was a lieutenant colonel; Douglas, a Marine captain.

Klein became a brigadier in the National Guard on Nov. 10, 1949.

THE WALLS OF his Loop offices are lined with the signed portraits of the general's political and military acquaintances—among them President Eisenhower, Sen. Taft, Sen. Douglas, the late Mayor Kelly, former Gov. Dwight Green, Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, whom he knew intimately in World War II, and Gen. Mark Clark.

Portraits of many of these and of others also hang on the sand-colored walls of the eight-room Klein apartment in the Belmont hotel. In the library, the first room you enter there, hangs a colored portrait, signed, of Cardinal Spellman.

The Kleins are childless. They live quietly and graciously in an atmosphere of well-to-do elegance. A housekeeper, Mrs. Marian Gilroy, lives with them.

Klein's workshop, as he calls it, is separated from the library by a folding door. A bust of him by Katie Bercovici sits atop the walnut storage cabinets along one wall of the den.

He reads in English, Swedish, Dutch, French, German, favoring history, letters, diaries and military studies.

IN A TYPICAL day, Klein rises at 6:30, grabs a cigar, catches the news on TV, reads his morning paper in the bathtub, breakfasts and leaves for the office at 8, driven in a Cadillac limousine by his chauffeur, Jim Brown.

Rolling down the Outer Drive, he telephones the office from the car and has his pretty secretary, Grace Griggs, read the important morning mail.

Once a week he takes the Century to New York City, where he maintains a branch office. He also has a Beverly Hills (Calif.) office, which he visits once a month, and one in Washington.

Klein's pet aversion is being referred to as a reactionary. He contends his idol, Taft, was "the only true, real liberal." A naturally gregarious man, he boasts his "liberal" friends include such men as Sen. Humphrey (D., Minn.) and ex-President Truman.

He is still chuckling over a letter he got from Truman, dated Jan. 7, 1954, which reads: "Dear General: I hope you will have everything you want in 1954, except a successful Republican election!"

Tomorrow—Park Livingston.